

CITY OF DETROIT FISCAL 2005/06 BUDGET

AGENCY 16 CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The mission of the agency as set out in the City Charter, is to provide consumer education and information, enforce ordinances prohibiting fraudulent practices, investigate consumer complaints, and grant, revoke or approve licenses and permits as required by City ordinances. The department is empowered to hold hearings to determine whether or not licenses should be revoked, to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and promulgate rules for the department's procedures. The Weights and Measures Division is responsible for sealing taxicab meters and halting overweight trucks.

DESCRIPTION

Consumer Affairs provides consumer education and information, and works to resolve disputes between consumers and businesses.

Divisions include the Business License Center, whose primary responsibilities involves general business licenses and taxicab bonds, and the Weights and Measures operation whose responsibilities include truck inspections to ensure size and weight loads are within the legal limits and to monitor taxicab meters and their operating condition.

Our education mission is carried out through the publication and distribution of pamphlets, articles and newsletters. Information is disseminated through public speaking, lectures, classes, media announcements and individual replies to questions that come in by phone or mail. License investigators check business outlets to determine that fees are collected, and assist new business operators in obtaining necessary permits and licenses.

GOALS

1. Enhance consumer safety.
2. Target fraudulent operations which place legitimate businesses at a disadvantage.
3. Maximize revenue.

DEPARTMENTAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	GENERAL	
	<u>FUND</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
EXPENDITURES	\$1,054,989	\$1,054,989
REVENUES	<u>1,675,000</u>	<u>1,675,000</u>
NET TAX COST	\$(620,011)	\$(620,011)
POSITIONS	15	15